

That Which is Claimed

1. A method of distributing movies to customer
5 households comprising the steps of:

under authority of content providers who control
the distribution rights to movies, delivering digital movie disks
to widely geographically dispersed distribution agents;

having distribution agents produce copies of the
10 movie disks, each copy including an identification code that
identifies the distribution agent who made the copy;

distributing the movie disk copies from the
distribution agents to customer households that have playback
devices compatible with the disks;

15 permitting the customer households to view desired
movies through their playback devices;

communicating from the customer households movie
playback information that identifies each movie that has been
viewed and a distribution agent who is responsible for the movie
20 being distributed to the customer household; and

as dictated by the movie playback information,
compensating content providers and responsible distribution
agents.